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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President of Russia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Notetakers: Virginia Pierson, Jeff Blair,
Duncan Walker, and Noelle Neimer

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

DATE, TIME November 4, 2004, 8:33 - 8:40 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: Hi, George. I am very happy to hear your voice. (U)

The President: Thank you for your very strong post election comments. Laura and I noticed you were one of the first world leaders to speak and I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your comments. (S)

President Putin: George, I will be honest with you. I wanted very much to congratulate you through this telephone call and I am thankful to you for giving me this ring. This is a very gracious gesture on behalf of the winner. You know, we have a saying you will agree with: defeat is always a lonely orphan, but victory has many fathers. (S)

The President: Yes, sir. (U)

President Putin: But first and foremost, this is your victory, your personal success. And above all this is about your character, your ability to take responsibility on your shoulders. Silvio Berlusconi visited with me yesterday, and he did not have a wink of sleep the whole night. He was following

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closely the elections.

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Indeed, I am very happy to hear about your victory. And over these past days the emergence on television of that bastard, bin-Laden, was something special. We all must understand clearly those people who would waste other people, have no mercy for them, and under the guise of democracy eliminate this very democracy. I am confident your victory is about victory and stability not only for America but for the entire world with regard to preserving security. So I congratulate you both on the whole electoral campaign you have been running successfully but especially over the last few weeks when I saw you. You looked perfect, had real drive, and you are a real fighter. I would like to send my best regards to Laura and to your daughters and I will meet you shortly at the Chile summit. (S)

The President: Yes, sir. I will see you there. Thanks for your friendship and your strong comments. I will see you in Santiago. (S)

President Putin: My embraces to you. All the best to you. (U)

The President: Thank you, my friend. We will see you soon.
(U)

President Putin: See you soon. Bye bye. (U)

The President: Bye bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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